

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that original claim 4 contains allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated February 28, 2005, at 5, lines 4-6).

Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been amended, and new claims 7-10 have been added. More specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of canceled claims 3 and 4. The phrase "satisfactorily large heat capacity" has been replaced with --a heat capacity sufficient to reduce a cooling rate of the thin-walled portion after build-up welding-- as supported by original claim 3 and on page 8, line 24, to page 9, line 1, of the specification as originally filed. Claim 1 has also been amended to replace the phrase "heat-resisting temperature" with --melting temperature-- as suggested by the Examiner (See Office Action dated February 28, 2005, at 2, lines 14-16) and as supported on page 8, lines 19-21, of the specification as originally filed. This replacement of phrases improves clarity of the claim, but has no limiting effect on the scope of the claim.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 have been amended in accordance with the amendment to claim 1, and to ensure the preamble of these claims is in accordance with the preamble of claim 1. The present amendment has no limiting effect on the scope of claims 2, 5 and 6.

New claims 7-10 correspond to claims 1, 2, 5 and 6, respectively, but written in language that does not use "step-plus-function" language. Therefore, new claims 7-10 do not invoke 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph, and are broader in scope than claims 1, 2, 5 and 6.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the application.

Applicants' Arguments

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. In addition, the independent claims 1 and 7 each incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 4. Therefore, claims 1 and 7 are allowable for the reasons of record. All other remaining claims each depend, either directly or indirectly, upon either claim 1 or claim 7, and are likewise allowable.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and are allowable because the independent claims 1 and 7 each incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claim 4.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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